

## The Watchman and Southron

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1880 and the True Southron in 1886. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

## A YEARLY WAGE

A new plan for a minimum yearly wage for the garment industry is being considered by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. It calls for an unemployment fund to which both employers and employee would contribute on the ground "that it is an obligation of the industry to provide for the regular workers a guaranteed yearly compensation."

It seems that the average worker is idle about 100 days a year. The proponents of this plan believe that if it is put into operation it will help to stabilize the trade, and will make it imperative for manufacturers to work out means of making it more regular and less seasonal in its employment.

Thoughtful employers would be glad to obviate the seasonal nature of the trade, because it would greatly lessen the labor turnover and utilize the machinery to better advantage. Frenzied rushes followed by idleness are good neither for a business advantage nor for the human beings engaged in it.

Whether the garment trades succeed in carrying out this plan to a satisfactory conclusion or not, it seems to have a suggestion for the equally seasonal coal industry. Might not the consideration of the whole coal business on the basis of a yearly minimum wage serve as a handle by which to take hold of the situation?

## ANOTHER ALLIANCE

The announcement that France and Belgium had concluded "an anti-race pact for joint action in no matter what circumstances" came as another shock to people who have hoped for an end of that sort of thing.

How long ago it seems since the first months of the war and the first months after the armistice, when millions everywhere were talking of "no more alliances or balances of power" but a general cooperation for the benefit of all. To many the League of Nations, a mere promise of such a result, contemplating as it did a sort of alliance of all countries which would eliminate partial alliances and groups of powers.

That hope seems to have faded away among members of the League, pledged to stand by each other and supposedly guaranteed in their rights by virtue of their membership, there has been one alliance after another. This Franco-Belgian pact is simply the latest in a series of alliances, the fact that it is the second alliance arranged since the opening of the Geneva conference. The German-Russian pact was probably more significant and full of potential trouble. There is also a French-Polish alliance, the alliance comprising Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Roumania and generally known as the "Little Entente", the Anglo-French alliance and others of minor importance.

One thing at least brings a note of cheer. It is the fact that these alliances are made public, as provided by the Versailles treaty and as demanded by modern sentiment, instead of being kept secret according to the dark methods of the old diplomacy. Still, the American public would rather not hear any more for the present. Every one of them seems to postpone the general getting together on equal terms which forward-looking people now regard as the most desirable way of handling international affairs.

## THE DOPE WAVE

Many people imagine that, because there has been considerable agitation in this country against narcotic drugs and some corrective legislation has been enacted, the evil is greatly reduced. There is little evidence of such improvement.

The most convincing proof of the spread of deadly drug habits is the consumption of opium and its

products. It was bad enough back in 1909, when the United States used 479,000 pounds of opium, many times as much as all Europe together, and nearly 30 times as much as Germany, France or Great Britain. Ten years later, however, the American consumption had risen to 730,000 pounds, and those who keep track of the traffic say the increase still continues.

Ways have been found to get around all of the corrective laws yet devised. The "dope" is not only imported in regular ways and then diverted to improper purposes, but vast quantities are smuggled in. Methods of salesmanship are worked out with diabolical cleverness. The worst phase of the whole ugly business is said to be the systematic distribution of samples of heroin, cocaine, or cocaine among school children. They acquire the habit easily, and then they are customers for life.

There are hundreds of thousands of recorded victims in the country, and estimates of the total number run into millions. The evil ought to be taken more seriously by the public, the press and legislative bodies than it has been taken so far.

## THE HEDGE PROFITABLE

A nature writer suggests that if you are going to have a hedge you may as well have one with money hanging from it ready for your picking. He proposes a hedge of currants, or gooseberries or blackberries or raspberries. Some of the latter, nowadays, are "everbearing", and productive of desserts, even if not of canning quantities, right through the summer.

According to the American Forestry Magazine, a productive hedge may be as beautiful as a non-productive one, and the non-productive hedge is always a liability. It has to be cared for, cut and sprayed just the same as the productive one.

A berry hedge along the outside of one's estate is liable to be a temptation to the passing small boy, but if it is well cared for, it will produce enough for the household besides, and the boy's good-will is extra.

## STRENGTH OR GRACE?

A public lecturer, director of an art school, said recently that physical education should aim at "strength for men and grace for women." He objected strenuously to what he knew of modern physical education for girls and women in the high schools and colleges. Why in the world, he inquired, should girls do stunts on the rings, jump the gymnast horse or twirl around on parallel bars? And still more, why should girls play baseball? Esthetic dancing, training in posture and grace were what they required. Let the other things be left for the men.

In discussing these statements a college senior who spends six hours a week in gymnasium activities, including indoor baseball, said: "Is there a real reason why a graceful woman should not know how to think quickly and act promptly and understand team cooperation? Those are some of the things baseball teaches women."

Said her father: "Is there any reason why the round-shouldered girl should not have her muscles strengthened to a point enabling her to straighten her posture, and maintain it correctly? As I understand it, that is what many of the so-called 'stunts' enable her to do."

Almost any physical education teacher will say that girls love the "stunts" and spend their free time before class playing with apparatus. They do not stand around in corners practicing graceful gestures. But any physical education teacher who is awake to the purpose of her teaching, as well as its method, knows that health is the first consideration, and that every bit of apparatus work, every game and dancing step, properly understood and taught, does help to cultivate not only health but also grace both of body and spirit.

## GOMPERS AND BOLSHIEVISM

It is not surprising that Samuel Gompers opposes strongly any recognition by the United States government of the Soviet government of Russia. He has stood firmly against allowing the American Federation to be eaten through with Bolshevism. He has, at every turn, opposed Red-ism with Americanism. It has not been an easy fight for the veteran, nor is it over.

Mr. Gompers very wisely urges Americans to beware of "now-we-are-good" propaganda "poured out of the Moscow machine into the ears of the world." He does not want the world to forget that it is hardly a month since Lenin said: "We encountered the fight against

us by instituting terror, a threefold terror. If it becomes necessary again we will have it once more." In many respects, though, not all, Mr. Gompers is on firm ground. And in fact, the agreement of the powers to assist Russia with loans and materials does not say anything about political recognition.

The important thing in the Russian muddle is to keep clear as to the exact situation. Nobody can oust the Soviet government but the Russian people. Nor can they do it until they are on their feet, nor can they get on their feet without outside help.

It's going to be a ticklish course to steer nations and governments through the mess without recognition of the Reds as rulers of Russia, but perhaps it can be done. Meantime, Mr. Gompers' warning of the dangers involved comes not amiss.

A Cleveland scientist who has been making experiments with "ether drift" says his results cast doubt on the Einstein calculations. It's a hard world for ordinary, unscientific folks to grope about in. If science isn't even positive that it is relative, what in space is it, anyhow?

The woman who is thought to have killed three husbands to get the insurance money says she has had three proposals since the death of her last husband. Some men will dare anything.

## TOO FAT?

If you are a man of 50 years, and you weigh 50 pounds too much, your chance of living to be 100 is only half as great as it ought to be. So says New York's health commissioner, Dr. R. S. Copeland.

"I know, absolutely how to live to be 100 years old, and I don't practise what I know. There are in this country 3,500 men and women past 100 years of age, and there is no reason why the average man should not attain the century mark."

The great trouble with most people is what Dr. Copeland confesses—they don't practise what they know. Surely there cannot be any large proportion left who have not yet heard the gospel of fresh air, sound sleep, exercise and wholesome food in proper proportions. A great many of them, in fact, do not want to practise what they know. They prefer the present pleasure or the present indolence to the more or less shadowy future, with its very uncertain benefit of living to be 100.

More and more people every year find out, however, that the present pleasure is greatly enhanced by good health, that present indolence is far less enjoyable than present exercise followed by well-earned rest. The excess baggage which is a product of lazy living and uncontrolled appetites is of no good to the carrier or to anyone else. When the pounds and puffs have given way to leanness and power, when the will and character have been strengthened by the effect, then life begins to be worth living again. And whether it continues to 100 is a minor detail, not because today is bad, as it used to be, but because today is good.

## THE TENANT'S INNING

"Moving day" in New York is said to have been a glum day for landlords. There was a great procession of tenants' moving, with their effects, to the suburbs. Large numbers of flats are left vacant. Landlords have been obliged to compromise on rent and improvements.

Likewise in Chicago, where there is a sort of strike against landlords, with tenants refusing to pay high rents and establishing tent colonies. Likewise, on a smaller scale, all over the country, wherever rents have been so high as to arouse general resentment.

The landlord has had his inning. Now it is to be the tenant's inning. He insists, reasonably enough, that rents must be deflated along with other costs of living, and the big increase of building helps his cause. Another year or two should see rents quite reasonable again.

If the tenant is wise, however, he will not press his advantage unduly—as many a landlord did—when he finds fate playing into his hands. What is needed in the real estate business is some general agreement, in every sector and every community, as to what is a fair percentage of return on property. Then, with valuation established, rents could be figured out on a basis mutually satisfactory to landlord and tenant, very much as interest rates are adjusted between lender and borrower.

There's mainly a rough neck in a stiff collar.

## BETTERMENT OF CONDITIONS

Business Situation Compared With That of a Year Ago

London, April 15.—Trade and industrial conditions in this country on the whole are, in the opinion of experts, steadily improving though somewhat slowly.

No big revival has materialized, but there has been a continuous betterment of conditions, a seemingly healthy growth, that has satisfied traders more than any sudden "revival" which might have been built on shifting sands and would have collapsed, leaving matters worse than before.

One outstanding indication of the trend of affairs is that money is easier and more is being loaned, which indicates confidence in the trade situation generally.

Encouraging reports come from various trades, notably coal, textile and pig-iron. General living conditions have improved, commodities having dropped in price and there has been a decrease in unemployment, although it is still large.

In seeking for an unbiased statement regarding conditions from an authority, The Associated Press turned to Robert Skinner, the American Consul General in London. In response Mr. Skinner gave the following statement:

"While governments undoubtedly continue to have their very serious difficulties of a political nature, there are signs of improvement in business which is much less dependent upon the activities of governments than might appear to be the case. The recovery of trade is taking place very slowly and uneventfully, but to realize that it is recovering, it is only necessary to recall, for example, the state of this country just one year ago."

"At the moment there was much political and industrial unrest, troops in large numbers were on active service, the coal industry had closed down and dependent lines were necessarily affected. Prices were high, unemployment was much greater than at present and the psychological factors disturbed."

"It seemed a year ago as though Great Britain had lost her foreign coal market, but today it is obvious that this has been recovered to a great extent."

"The Manchester Chamber of Commerce tells us that hopes of a moderate revival of trade with India have been realized and that inquiries from India and China have been numerous. Egypt also has placed a fair number of orders. South America continues quiet."

"India, for many years the great market for British cotton goods, has become herself a manufacturer of such goods."

"China has become more or less a manufacturing country absorbing, say, 100,000 bales of American cotton last year. South America, notably Argentina and Brazil have begun to manufacture textiles and generally all countries give signs of interest in domestic manufacture. While this shifting of production from one place to another creates certain difficulties, on the other hand, far from indicating depression it suggests the reverse condition."

Britain and United States exports from the city of London are suggestive. For the three months ended March 31, 1922, declared exports from London to the United States aggregated £7,870,399 plus merchandise valued at \$1,272,539 which was invoiced in American currency only, as against exports for the same period in 1921 amounting to £7,201,675.

"If we remember how prices have dropped since a year ago we shall at once see that not only has there been an increase in values but still greater increase in quantities. The large single items of these exports which show increase are: leather, precious metals, gums, linens, scrap metal, aluminium, linseed oil, and copper concentrates."

"One hesitates to pick out these cheerful symptoms for purposes of optimistic discussion because it is always very dangerous to prophecy and yet he would fail to recognize the prevailing indications as most encouraging."

Boards realize there's no place like home when they see strawberries on the market and prunes on the table.

Some women brag about the men they could have married because the fish that gets away seems the biggest.

Two married people can live cheaper than one single man in love.

In England, a Ford license is more than \$100. They don't like a joke.

Money doesn't talk as much as people who have money.

For the sake of his professional pride, it's probably a good thing Jesse James died before our time.

Some people think they are intellectual just because they skip the sport page and read the scandal sheets.

In some instances there is sufficient evidence to convict the woman, and in others the woman is good-looking.

Not enough married men leave their business cares at the office, and too many leave their good manners there.

The equator, they say, is not where it was. Perhaps it got too hot there.

Cost of living is said to be dropping about one per cent a month. First 100 months are the hardest.

The man who has been kicking about the cold weather will soon be kicking about the hot weather.

## To-day's Best Jokes and Stories

Hint to executives: You can't develop a spirit of team-work and your ego at the same time.

The most appropriate place for a male person to wear a wrist watch is on his wife's wrist.

Success is largely a matter of marrying the right woman and letting nature take its course.

The length of time between strike and settlement depends upon the length of time between meals.

It isn't a moral sense that makes flapper seem offensive. It is hardening of the arteries.

Hell doubtless has its drawbacks, but there probably won't be any small of Turkish cigarettes there.

The average American never feels truly important unless he is spending more than he can afford.

What has become of the old-fashioned young man who felt wild and wicked when he smoked a cube?

It's much easier to impress the neighbors than to impress the man who makes the loans at the bank.

Another thing that encourages us to awake and breathe the early morning air is the early-morning fly.

"Habitual law-breakers are usually mental defectives." We sometimes fear this is true of habitual law-makers.

Christ healed the woman with an issue of blood. His spirit can heal those who suffer from issues of flat currency.

The financial wizard usually winds up by getting free board and clothes, and that is considerable accomplishment in times like these.

Willie Willis: "Pa, what do they mean when they say a woman is dressed in the height of fashion?"

Papa Willis: "About an inch above the knees, my son."—Town Topics.

Boy to His Dad: "Dad, can you sign your name with your eyes shut?"

His Dad: "Certainly."

Boy: "Well, then shut your eyes and sign my report card."—The Boys Magazine.

"Why the golf sticks? I didn't know you golfed?"

"I don't. These are merely to impress a bank president. I'm going to strike him for a loan."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"How is it you have such a good memory, Norah?" her mistress inquired.

"Well, mum, I'll tell ye. Since my childhood never a lie have I told, and when ye don't have to be taken 'yer memory to be remembered, what ye told this one or that, oh, how ye explained this or that, shure ye don't overwork it and it lasts ye, good as new, tell ye die."—Christina Advocate.

The conjurer was producing eggs from a top-hat. He addressed a boy in the front row.

"Your mother can't get eggs without hens, can she?" he asked.

"Oh, yes," said the boy.

"How's that?" asked the conjurer.

"She keeps ducks," answered the boy.—Rural Life.

"Robert," said the mother sternly to her offspring who had just broken a window with a baseball.

"I'm going to give you a good whipping—not because you broke the window, but because you broke your promise to me that you would stop playing ball near the house."

"Aw, ma," whimpered the boy, "can't you do it for breakin' the window? Dad'll have to lick somebody for that."—American Boy.

Mother (apropos of young son): Well, what's keeping you from taking hold of the youngster and making him behave?

Father: No, no; not armed intervention—an economic penalty. Take away his dessert.—Le Rire (Paris).

Mrs. Worth had just learned that her colored work-woman, Aunt Dinah, had at the age of seventy married for the fourth time. "Why, Aunt Dinah," she exclaimed, "you surely haven't married again?"

"Yassum, honey, I has," was Aunt Dinah's smiling reply. "Jes as often as de Lawd takes 'em, so will I."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Mrs. Skinner (across fence): "If I had the family skeleton you have I wouldn't parade it before the neighbors."

Mrs. Sapp: "No, you wouldn't. If you had a family skeleton you'd probably sell it to a medical school."—Boston Transcript.

It was a wet day, and as the pretty girl entered the crowded car a man rose to his feet.

"No, you must not give up your seat; I insist," said the young woman.

"You may insist as much as you like, miss," was the reply. "I'm getting out here."—Erie Review.

"A" Operator: "Has Marjorie any education along musical lines?"

"B" Operator: "I should say so! Name any record and she can tell you what's on the other side."—Telephone Review.

A Japanese boy came to the home of a minister in Los Angeles recently and applied for a position.

Now it happened that the household was already well supplied with servants, so the minister's wife said, "I am sorry, but we really haven't enough work to keep another boy busy."

"Madam," said the Oriental politely, "I am sure that you must have. You may not know what a little bit of work it takes to keep me employed."—Tokio Times.

Patron of the Arts: "Eighty-five francs? That's rather expensive for the work of a painter who's still alive."

Art Dealer: "Well, you might give me the money, and I'll see what can be done about it."—Le Matin.

The Boss: "I'm afraid you are not qualified for the position; you don't know anything about my business."

Applicant: "Don't I, though? I am engaged to your stenographer."—Boston Transcript.

"I want," said the very plain girl, "a book entitled 'Cultivate Your Natural Beauty.'"

"Here it is," said the clerk, who wanted to be sociable. "Are you getting it for a friend?"

And the very plain girl put her purse back into her bag and went right out. —Philadelphia Retail Ledger.

Willie (to his father who had recently married the second time): "There's a shop in the High Street just like you, daddy."

Father: "Shop like me? What do you mean?"

Willie (getting near to the door): "Why, it's under entirely new management."—Edinburgh Scotsman.

"You had a forty-dollar gas bill last month," said the dry agent.

"The wife has-er been doing a little canning," said the home distiller.

"Hum, I want to sample some of the stuff."

"Wife," called the home distiller, in quavering tones, "open a can of salmon for the gentleman."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

He (lingering in the hall): And, dearest, we shall grow old together, you and I.

Her Father's Voice: Well, you needn't start doing it down there, need you?—Boston Transcript.

"When is your daughter thinking of getting married?"

"Constantly."—The American Legion Weekly.

Mrs. Baring: "Do you know, Mr. Jolly, that your wife is the most tactful woman I ever met?"

Mr. Jolly: "She's a marvel. You'll hardly believe it, but she has managed to keep an Irish cook and an English housemaid for your years."—Judge.

"The slump in business doesn't seem to worry MacTavish in the least."

"On the contrary, he's tickled to death because he has so much more time for golf."

Bilton: "What do you consider the meanest act a man can do to a woman?"

Mrs. Bilton: "Will her a fortune payable at the age of 35."

The latest fad in the United States is for men to carry photographs of their wives inside the crowns of their hats. An enterprising firm is specializing in extra large crowns for the State of Utah.—Eve.

Algernon (city cousin): "What has that cow got the bell strapped round her neck for?"

Bobb: "That's to call the calf when dinner's ready."—Home Chronicle.

"So you've been speculating in the market, have you?"

"Not at all; I always lose my money on sure things."—Judge.

"I wonder how China feels about the peace conference?"

"All broken up."—Judge.

First Italian: "Oh, looka data bird on da rubber plant!"

Second Ditto: "Sure, he's gutta-percha."—Harvard Lampoon.

"Papa, if I was twins would you buy the other boy a banana too?"

"Certainly, my son."

"Well, pap, you surely ain't going to cheat me out of another banana just 'cause I'm all in one piece?"—The Futurist.

"A lobster in a hurry, waiter."

"Yes, sir; I'll attend to you right away."—Boston Transcript.

In a small town a man is known by the things he tries to conceal.

As a rule, a grouch is just the triumph of a yellow streak over good nature.

It occurs to us that whatever may be the matter with the world it isn't gray matter.

Civil service enables efficient men to hold their jobs on and on until the other party gets into power.

The headlines indicate that the list of hazardous occupations may yet include that of being a husband.

France isn't alone in her trouble. A lot of credit men in the country know how to sympathize with her.

Hardins smokes a corncob pipe. Bet his wife is mad.

We don't know how much education there is; but it isn't enough.

Some of these new drivers think a train ought to take to the woods when it sees them coming.

WANTED—You to come to the Service Barber Shop. Just been put in repair. All new and clean. Opposite the postoffice. L. E. Cubbage, J. L. Mooneyham.

## Funeral Held For Charles Wood.

The following is a clipping taken from the Wilmington Dispatch. The deceased is a brother of Mr. F. A. Wood of Sumter:

Funeral service for Charles E. Wood, for 40 years a member of Wilmington's police force, who died Sunday afternoon following a stroke of apoplexy, was held from St. Andrew's Presbyterian church yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Interment was in Oakdale cemetery. The service was conducted by Rev. J. E. Purcell, pastor of St. Andrew's church, assisted by Rev. J. A. Sullivan, pastor of Calvary Baptist church.

Mayor James H. Cowan, commissioner of public safety, made a most impressive talk at the church. He paid a beautiful tribute to the deceased and he was profuse in his praise for the entire police force. Mayor Cowan had previously directed a letter to the entire force calling upon them to attend the funeral, and practically the entire force responded to the notice.

In addition there were hundreds of other friends of Mr. Wood, who went to pay their respects to the memory of Wilmington's oldest police officer.

Many beautiful floral designs, including one sent by the police department, were placed on the grave. The pallbearers were Mayor or James H. Cowan, Commissioners J. E. Thompson and R. C. Cantwell and Chief Claude C. Cashwell, honorary, and W. C. Woodard, Sergeants W. R. Appleberry and E. J. Grimsley, and Officers S. H. Fulford, J. S. Bryant and E. M. Sessions, active. Records court, which was in session yesterday afternoon, recessed for the funeral hour.

Mayor Cowan's letter to the police department with reference to the death of Officer Wood under date